

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A database querying method, comprising:
2 obtaining a first data item from a database table of a database system in response
3 to a query request;
4 obtaining a second data item from an updated log file of said database system
5 based on a value related to said first data item, said value ~~in an~~being stored in said updated log
6 ~~file of said database system~~;
7 integrating said first and second data items into an integration result; and
8 returning said integration result as a result of ~~to~~ said query request,
9 wherein said second data item comprises information indicative of an update time
10 of said first data item.
- 1 2. (Original) The database querying method of claim 1,
2 wherein said second data item is obtained by translating said value according to a
3 predetermined translation rule.
- 1 3. (Currently amended) A database querying system comprising:
2 a database access module for obtaining a first data item from a database table of a
3 database system in response to a query request;
4 a log extractor module for obtaining a second data item from an updated log file
5 of said database system based on a value related to said first data item, said value ~~in an~~being
6 stored in said updated log ~~file of said database system~~; and
7 an integrator module for integrating said first and second data items into an
8 integration result, said integration result related to a response to said query request,
9 wherein said second data item comprises information indicative of an update time
10 of said first data item.

1 4. (Original) The database querying system of claim 3 further comprising :
2 a translator module coupled with said log extractor module and with said
3 integrator module for modifying said second data item from said log extractor module according
4 to a predetermined translation rule, before said second data item is used by said integrator
5 module.

1 5. (Currently amended) A database querying system, comprising:
2 a database processor for receiving a query request and returning a requested
3 record set in response to the query request; and
4 a database system comprising a database table and an updated log file;
5 wherein said database processor is operably disposed to:
6 retrieving a first item from said database table responsive to said query request;
7 retrieving a second item, comprising information indicative of an update time of
8 ~~updated log data corresponding to~~ said first item, from said updated log file;
9 generating said requested record set, comprising said first item and said second
10 item; and
11 returning said requested record set to a query request origin.

1 6. (Original) The database querying system according to claim 5,
2 wherein the database processor comprises a translator for translating updated log
3 data, according to a predetermined translation rule, into translated log data and substituting said
4 translated log data for said updated log data in said second item.

1 7. (Original) A computer program product for use with a database system,
2 comprising:
3 a computer readable medium having program code embodied in said computer
4 readable medium, said program code comprising:
5 program code for obtaining a first data item from a database table of said database
6 system in response to a query request;

7 program code for obtaining a second data item from an updated log file of said
8 database system based on a value related to said first data item, said value ~~in an~~ contained in said
9 updated log file of said database system;

10 program code for integrating said first and second data items into an integration
11 result; and

12 program code for returning said integration result to said query request,
13 wherein said second data item comprises information indicative of an update time
14 of said first data item.

1 8. (Currently amended) A database question and answer method using one
2 or more databases, each database comprising a database table and an updated log file, said
3 updated log file comprising information associated with said database table, said method
4 comprising:

5 receiving a query request from a user, said query request comprising a first data
6 item of said database table;

7 using said first data item, obtaining a second data item from said updated log file;
8 modifying said second data item to a third data item using a predetermined
9 business rule;

10 generating a virtual table comprising said first and third data items; and
11 returning to said user an answer based on said virtual table,

12 wherein said third data item comprises information indicative of an update time of
13 said first data item.

1 9. (Original) The database question and answer method of claim 8 wherein
2 said virtual table is discarded after said answer is returned to said user.

1 10. (Original) The database question and answer method of claim 8 wherein
2 said predetermined business rule comprises an accounting time period.

1 11. (Original) The database question and answer method of claim 10 wherein
2 the accounting time period is a fixed day in a month.

1 12. (Original) The database question and answer method of claim 8 wherein
2 said predetermined business rule comprises a base time period.

1 13. (Original) The database question and answer method of claim 8 wherein
2 said predetermined business rule comprises a selected national calendar format for the day,
3 month, and year.

1 14. (Original) The database question and answer method of claim 8, wherein
2 said selected national calendar format is selected from a group consisting of a Japanese Calendar
3 or a U.S. Calendar.

1 15. (Original) The database question and answer method of claim 8 wherein
2 said predetermined business rule comprises a table name.

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1 16. (Original) The database question and answer method of claim 8 further
2 comprising:
3 when said query request is for a plurality of databases, dividing said query request
4 into a plurality of sub-requests, each sub-request directed to a database of said plurality of
5 databases;
6 receiving a record set of a plurality of record sets in response to said sub-request;
7 and
8 integrating said plurality of record sets into a result for returning to said user.

1 17. (Original) The database question and answer method of claim 8 wherein
2 said second data item comprises a timestamp for said first data item.

1 18. (Original) The database question and answer method of claim 8 wherein
2 said virtual table is a view table.

1 19. (Original) The database question and answer method of claim 8 wherein
2 said request is based on a search of said information in said updated log file.

1 20. (Original) A system for responding to a user query to a data base
2 management systems (DBMS), wherein said DBMS comprises a database table and an updated
3 log file, said system comprising:

4 a database access controller for retrieving a data item from said database table
5 responsive to said user query;

6 a translation module coupled with said database access controller for retrieving an
7 attribute related to said data item from said updated log file and for translating said attribute into
8 a modified attribute according to a translation rule; and

9 an integrator module for integrating said data item and said modified attribute into
10 a virtual table and returning to said user query an answer based on said virtual table,

11 wherein said modified attribute comprises information indicative of an update
12 time of said data item.

B1 1 21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said attribute is a timestamp.

1 22. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said translation rule comprises
2 a base time period.

1 23. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said translation rule comprises
2 a predetermined country's calendar format.

1 24. (Currently amended) A system for responding to a user query to a data
2 base management systems (DBMS), wherein said DBMS comprises a database table and an
3 updated log file, said system comprising:

4 an access means for retrieving a data item from said database table responsive to
5 said user query;

6 an extraction means for retrieving an attribute related to said data item from said
7 updated log file;

8 a translation means for translating said attribute into a modified attribute
9 according to a translation rule; and

10 a virtual table comprising said data item and said modified attribute wherein a
11 response to said user query is based on said virtual table,

12 wherein said modified attribute comprises information indicative of an update
13 time of said data item.

1 25. (Currently amended) A computer readable data transmission medium
2 containing a data structure for responding to a user query, comprising:

3 a first part, comprising a database table entry, responsive to said user query; and

4 a second part, comprising, a timestamp modified by a translation rule, wherein
5 said timestamp is a time value stored in an updated log file associated with said database table
6 entry.

1 26. (Original) The computer readable data transmission medium of claim 25
2 wherein said data structure is a virtual table.

1 27. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium for storing code for
2 querying a database querying, comprising:

3 code for obtaining a first data item from a database table of a database system in
4 response to a query request;

5 code for obtaining a second data item from an updated log file of said database
6 system based on a value related to said first data item, said value ~~in an~~ contained in said updated
7 log file of said database system;

8 code for integrating said first and second data items into an integration result; and
9 code for returning said integration result ~~to~~ as a result of said query request,

10 wherein said second data item comprises information indicative of an update time
11 of said first data item.

1 28. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 27, further
2 comprising code for obtaining said second data item by translating said value according to a
3 predetermined translation rule.

1 29. (Currently amended) A database querying system comprising:
2 an access means for obtaining a first data item from a database table of a database
3 system in response to a query request;
4 an extractor means for obtaining a second data item from an updated log file of
5 said database system based on a value related to said first data item, said value ~~in an~~ contained in
6 said updated log file of said database system; and
7 an integrator means for integrating said first and second data items into an
8 integration result, said integration result related to a response to said query request,
9 wherein said second data item comprises information indicative of an update time
10 of said first data item.

1 30. (Original) The database querying system of claim 29 further comprising :
2 a translator means for modifying said second data item from said log extractor
3 module according to a predetermined translation rule, before said second data item is used by
4 said integrator module.
